Who Is Attacking The Teamsters Union?

Answer: An Unholy Alliance of Political Midgets, Some Lying Media Gossip Peddlers and a Few Self-Appointed Labor "Reformers" whose Secret Motives are Destructive and Un-American.

Where is the Real Corruption in Our Society?

Well, there's plenty of it among the Nation's political leaders. Our Congress is riddled with brazen immorality. The Nation's Treasury is being looted to pay for Congressmen's sexual fun and games, for scores of overseas junkets, for porkbarrel projects by the dozen and for hundreds of soft jobs for relatives and friends of Senators and Representatives.

The very Senator who is crying loudest for another investigation of the Teamsters allowed his wife to go on the payroll of one of the foreign Mid-East interests who seek to destroy our economy by holding the oil embargo weapon to our heads. What is this Senator's perception of the public interest and his responsibility for furthering America's goals.

Then there is the former Vice-President who seems to be getting his pockets filled by the foreign oil interests, while it might be more fitting for him to be serving time in punishment of his publicly admitted felonious acts.

Who are Our Foes in the Media?

A hard core of reporters and other newspersons have willingly joined up with the political midgets who, in this election year, are gladly feeding the news media unfounded charges, rumors and gossip that will help divert attention from the politicians' own corruption.

Some of these news hatchetmen not only consistently slant their reports against our union, they have reached the point where they cannot use the word "Teamster" without a sneer or a smear.

A complaint filed by our union with the Federal Communications Commission clearly documents the use, by the NBC TV network, of distortions, half-truths, and out-and-out lies.

An NBC series on Teamster Power was cleverly staged as an attempt to interfere with the recent successful Master Freight Negotiations. The negotiations were brought to a responsible conclusion despite the attempt by NBC to inject bias and untruth into a matter that dealt

Do They Report News or Make It Up?

Even more recently, NBC News reported that a Teamster delegate was shouted down at our International Convention while making a motion from the floor. Transcripts and video tapes of our recent convention clearly demonstrate the falseness of that report, and the malice of the reporter who made it. This convention, open in every session to members of the news media, provided each and every delegate with a fair opportunity to speak his or her mind and to get a vote on any motion.

Some reporters are unable to move beyond their deep-seated prejudices to acknowledge the effectiveness of Teamster representations. The U. S. Secretary of Labor addressed our convention and paid tribute to the high quality of Teamster unionism and Teamster leaders in serving American working men and women.

Reporters present at that meeting couldn't restrain their hostility in questioning this distinguished public official and in editorializing against his complimentary remarks. With a pack instinct, they attacked his very integrity.

We have knowledge of many Teamsters who, when interviewed by NBC, spoke well of their union. Those interviews fell victim to NBC's editing process as that network stuck to its intention of attacking the Teamsters, come what may.

By Reform, Do They Mean Destroy?

The third element in the unholy trio attacking the Teamster Union goes under various labels such as TDC, TDU and PROD . . . whatever the handle, all are media creations. If it were not for the gullibility and hostility of many news people, these irresponsible and subversive elements would be back in their burrows, where they belong.

Banner headlines recently proclaimed those from TDC who sought to disrupt democratic, responsible labor negotiations. The truth is that TDC was led by a small, well-organized group of self-admitted socialists who

Government and our Democratic Way of Life. Even with the willing assistance of the media, they failed but were not deterred from their dangerous purpose. They now call themselves TDU but their objectives remain the same.

Even PROD admits that the TDC and TDU leaders call for a "workers' revolution" and seek to destroy the "capitalist state". The International Socialists, as represented by their paper, WORKERS' POWER, clearly demonstrate their hostility to American Institutions. They seek to demolish our Constitutional form of Government as we know it today.

Yet, PROD seeks common course with these very subversives. PROD is led by a lawyer well-recognized as a cheap-shot artist. The staff of PROD are not members of our union. They are self-appointed and self-serving. One of them was happy to enjoy the benefits of Teamster membership when he needed employment to finance his education, and then turned upon those who aided him.

Who Supports This Hatchet Job?

After four years of recruiting, they claim 2,000 Teamster members, less than one-one thousandth of our membership. Where is disclosure of their finances, salaries and sources of income? You'd think that the news media or the congressional witch hunters would check out PROD finances, but they haven't.

PROD began as an organization to promote better driver safety and health. Apparently that objective did not provide an adequate vehicle for a media rip-off. So PROD changed course. In the meantime, the Teamsters Union moved ahead with safety programs and improved contracts for our members . . . actions that are more basic but less newsworthy than PROD's charges.

So there you have it . . . those who seek to destroy the Teamster Union are themselves the corrupt and the corruptors, the seekers for sensation rather than truth.

In this our Bicentennial Year do not be fooled by the reckless conduct of a motley group that does

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In this our Bicentennial Year do not be fooled by the reckless conduct of a motley group that does not hesitate to imperil 200 years of Democracy.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT TEAMSTER POWER?

Why, at this Particular Time, are Certain Politicians, the News Media, and a Handful of Dissident Union Busters Sounding Off with One Voice Against The International Brotherhood of Teamsters?

Is It Our Size?

We are the largest single union in the free world. Since 1967 we have grown from 1.4 million members to about 2 million in 1975, the only major union to show an appreciable increase, yet we are not the largest labor organization by far.

Is it Because We Are Able to Grow?

We grow because we serve our members. This fact is recognized as keenly by our members as it is by the forces hostile to the Teamsters.

The Federal Government supervises secret ballot elections in which workers freely choose the union they wish to represent them. The Teamsters continue to win a substantial majority of the NLRB elections in which they are involved. The workers know they will enjoy a better life by going with the Teamsters.

Is It Because We Wield Power?

There are still mighty forces in business and Government that wish to return to the days when working men and women of America had no defense against the will of the employers. They would love to repeal all the gains the Teamsters' union has made for its members.

Observe that these forces are surfacing at this moment, and this is an election year. They know the power of the Teamsters — and they would love to weaken it.

How Do The Teamsters Use Their Power?

They use it for what it is, a public responsibility. Remember that after negotiating the finest pace-setting National Master Freight Contract in 1947, we did not call our first nationwide strike until April, 1976, and then only after making every possible effort to reach a mutually satisfactory three-year agreement. A strike was called when we were unable to secure economic justice for our members — and it was called only with approval of the members.

Are Our Contracts In The Public Interest?

The master freight strike lasted just four days. It was an orderly and a total strike. When the trucking management and union representatives got together again, the result was a three-year contract that won by 4 to 1 in a secret ballot referendum of the 437,000 Teamster truckers involved.

And please note — once the politicians and their news media toadies and cheerleaders had recovered from their initial fury, they realized that the settlement was a fair one and no more inflationary than inflation itself. Of course, they wouldn't admit this publicly.

Who Protects Our Citizens?

Giant corporations which used the energy crisis as a vehicle for greater profits? A fumbling Federal Government which cannot find the courage to throttle inflation through price and wage control? Our International President, Frank E. Fitzsimmons, speaking for the Teamsters, has publicly supported such controls. Only when our Government has failed to act are we forced to negotiate for wage increases that will match the inflation that still confronts us.

Are Government Controls For Unions Only?

All labor unions operate under the close scrutiny and control of scores of Federal agencies and bureaus. We must file endless reports that are available to our members and to all citizens.

But large multi-national corporations are chartered by small states, such as Delaware, under comfortable regulations. What reports do they file? Were their stockholders informed of huge illegal campaign gifts and payoffs to foreign countries? Who approves the huge salaries that the chairmen, directors, officers and select personnel receive? Who approves their stock options, bonuses, expense accounts and purchases of airplanes and homes located all over the globe in plush Acapulco-type surroundings?

Who Elects Teamster Leaders?

Our members, through the American type of representative government. Our International Constitution must and does follow Federal guidelines. Does the American citizen vote directly for his President, much less vote directly for who should be his party's nominee?

Does the small American stock investor elect the Chairman of the Board? Or, better yet, does he vote directly for the Board of Directors? Aren't chairmen and directors of public corporations really working for the American investor?

The leaders of a large labor union stand or fall on their overall performance for the members. The machinery exists — and inevitably it moves — to make this process of accountability effective.

How Much Should Teamster Leaders Be Paid?

We will go along with the philosophy of private business, which is, basically: if you have a demanding executive job with major responsibilities, you should be appropriately rewarded for performance. With our union, this means performance by Teamster leaders for the 2,000,000 members of the Teamsters Union.

What About Teamster Pension Fund Investments?

Much has been made of investments in hotels in Las Vegas, Nevada. These are good investments that have returned earnings to the pension fund and have thus increased the security of our members and our retired members.

Many of our critics, if they were better informed, or less biased, would have to admit that the Teamsters are in highly respectable company regarding Las Vegas investments. Right alongside Teamster-sponsored hotels are other hotels owned in precisely the same way by some of the largest banks and insurance companies in the land. Are they criticized for their profitable Las Vegas investments? There's that double standard again.

To Whom Is Teamster Power Responsible?

Teamster power is responsible to our members, to the general public and to the well being of our country.

Teamster power is not responsible, however, to a minority of self-serving politicians — or to a pack of journalistic jackals — or to a tiny group of dissident union agitators dedicated to harassing the Teamsters and their 2,000,000 members. We have just wound up our 21st International Convention, and we find ourselves stronger and more unified than ever before. That simple, undeniable fact may be the best response to those who would destroy us.

200 years of Democracy

Ohio Conference of Teamsters • Teamsters Joint Council 41

2070 East 22nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

73 years of Union progress

Reprinted from THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER July 5th, 1976

The Ohio Teamster
Lighting the Road Ahead for Our Union and the General Public
CLEVELAND, OHIO
JUNE, 1978

2797 E 122 St.
Cleveland, OH
2052 MAYFIELD ROAD
CLEVELAND OH 44118

E OUR GOV'T LEADERS ABUSING WER? PEOPLE ARE WONDERING

Outcry Sign Deeper Doubt

Help! We are all awash

Open Letter: Advice to Secretary Marshall

Dear Secretary Marshall:

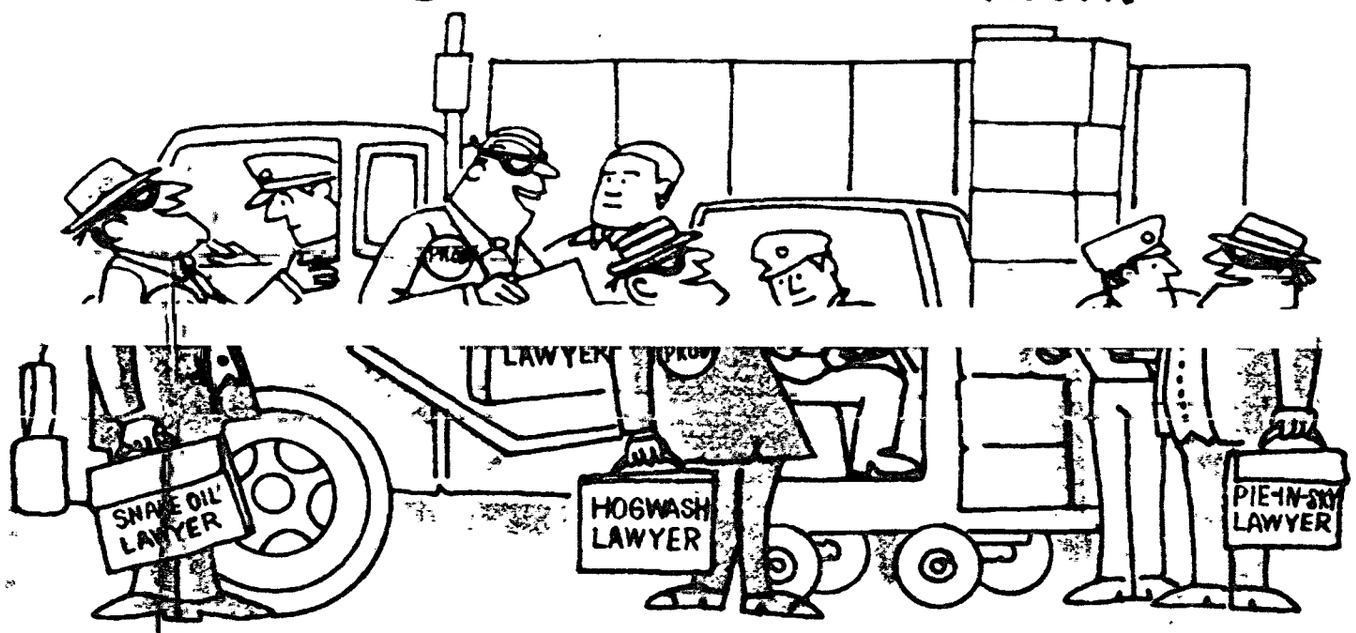
We acknowledge that you have a demanding and responsible job, and that you seek to fulfill it to the best of your ability in the honored 65 year old tradition of the Secretary of Labor as a Cabinet officer.

However, we doubt that the duties and tradition of your high office require your organization to play footsie with enemies of labor, such as PROD and similar rump organizations, that are dedicated not to support but to subvert legitimate and effective labor organizations, such as the Teamsters union.

National Magazine Quoted

In a recent issue of a national magazine, your assistant secretary, Francis X. Burkhardt, is quoted—we presume

Coming Out of The Woodwork



Take Off PROD's Mask and All You Find Is a Few Slick Lawyers Trying to Bambozle Teamsters With a Bag Full of Dirty Tricks

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National Magazine Quoted

In a recent issue of a national magazine, your assistant secretary, Francis X. Burkhardt, is quoted—we presume accurately—as acknowledging that PROD has influenced many of the Carter administration's inquiries into Teamster affairs, particularly those which have involved the alleged misuse (unproven) of Teamster pension funds.

Help from PROD

It seems obvious to us that your department ought to be conducting its own investigations, if they are called for, without benefit of the dubious information provided by an organization whose avowed purpose is to destroy the leadership of the Teamsters union. In other words, we are not aware that PROD is part of an official government agency, and if it has achieved that status you are in more trouble than we are.

Furthermore, Teamster officials have received "feelers" from your people to the effect that it would please your department to no end if our international union executive board would admit a member or two from one or two of the dissident Teamster groups—which have no Teamsters of any stature whatsoever in their own leadership!

Are the Teamsters expected to let a fox into our chicken coop in order to ease some of the pressure your office is surely getting from Right-to-Work senators? The same senators who used every low device possible to help defeat the long-overdue Labor Reform bill?

Disguised as Reform

The *Ohio Teamster* expresses the sentiment of true Teamsters who want no part of the kind of Teamster "reform" these non-union outsiders are proposing to the Labor Department. By "reform" outsiders really mean destruction.

We ask that you stand firm in resisting their efforts to infiltrate not only our union, and other unions like the Steel Workers and the United Mine Workers, and above all to infiltrate your own department! We believe it is the proper business of your department and your office to keep the enemies of Labor at bay, not to encourage them.

Sincerely,

The Officers and Executive Committee
Ohio DRIVE

Political Voice of the Ohio Teamsters

Take Off PROD's Mask and All You Find Is a Few Slick Lawyers Trying to Bambozle Teamsters With a Bag Full of Dirty Tricks

Because the Teamsters have a lot of serious business to transact, such as upcoming Master Freight Agreement renegotiations, now is not the time for the members to be distracted by a lot of malarkey from the phoney union-lovers down at PROD, Inc., in Washington.

PROD has got to be the most over-inflated outfit in the Western Hemisphere. PROD claims to be a spontaneous growth from the rank-and-file membership of the Teamsters. What membership?

What is PROD, really? It's a few lawyers who grabbed on Ralph Nader's coattails—when he was a popular hero—plus a fe New York-based anti-union foundations. The rest is mostly hot air supplied by PROD to the news media.

The astonishing thing is that this tiny bunch of fast-talking lawyers has conned not only the media but some of the Congress and several major government officials into thinking that Arthur Fox, John Sikorski and a couple of their dilettante friends in PROD represent true Teamster thinking!

Fortunately, there are about 2,300,000 Teamsters who know better. They are the true rank-and-file—not the handful persons claimed by PROD as PROD members and not all Teamsters, you can be sure. Anybody who wants to turn over $20 a year to Arthur Fox and company can join PROD. Personally, we wouldn't trust them with $20.

The PROD people who are telling you what you should do as a Teamster have never run for or held union office . . . have never won a grievance . . . have never negotiated a labor contract—in short, have never had labor union responsibilities. How can they know what is best for you?

We are happy to quote U.S. News and World Report, a national weekly magazine, telling a few home truths about PROD (even though the publication has no love for the Teamsters, either). Says U.S. News in a June, 1978 issue:

> **"Such bravado helps inflate PROD's reputation. A congressional aide who keeps close watch on the Teamsters notes that PROD is better at getting visible than organizing members."**
> **and . . . "PROD relies chiefly on sensational findings and heavily publicized lawsuits to gain public attention."**

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